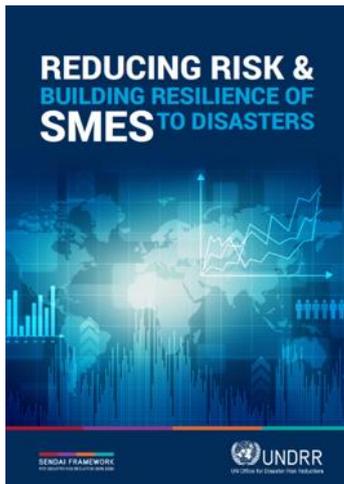# ARISE Newsletter

Spotlight on: Publication of new SME Guidance Report

Reducing Risk & Building Resilience of SMEs to Disasters

According to the OECD, two in every three employees across the OECD region work in an SME. When disaster strikes, SMEs are hit harder, suffer longer and are slower to recover than larger businesses.

This guidance report, authored by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), provides guidance for how to build the resilience of SMEs to multiple hazards, enabling them to be sustainable and competitive in the long run by reducing disaster risks, and with a specific focus on prevention.

The guidance report was informed by a global survey conducted by UNDRR and facilitated by the ARISE global network and other private sector partners, a literature review of available evidence related to building the resilience of SMEs to disasters and many insightful discussions with UNDRR Regional Offices and international partners working on and with SMEs including International Chambers of Commerce (ICC), the International Cooperative and Mutual Insurance Federation (ICMIF) and the International Trade Center (ITC).

The new SME guidance report explores challenges that SMEs face in disaster risk reduction as well as critical success factors for building the resilience of SMEs through DRR. It also includes case studies and proposes recommendations for building resilient SMEs through prevention across critical factors.

An SMEs Resources Compendium and 6 two-pagers with infographics complement the guidance report. The two-pagers showcase tailored statistics for the Caribbean, Central and South America, Mexico, India and the Philippines. A global two-pager provides a wide view of the regions and country with aggregated data.

Key events related to ARISE Priority Areas:

February 2021

- ARISE UAE Resilient Infrastructure Roundtable

March 2021

- ICMIF Publication, forthcoming new evidence
- Launch of UNDRR/ICMIF Case Studies and Insurance Resilience Mechanisms

April 2021

- Launch of follow up SME reports
- Financing for Development Summit
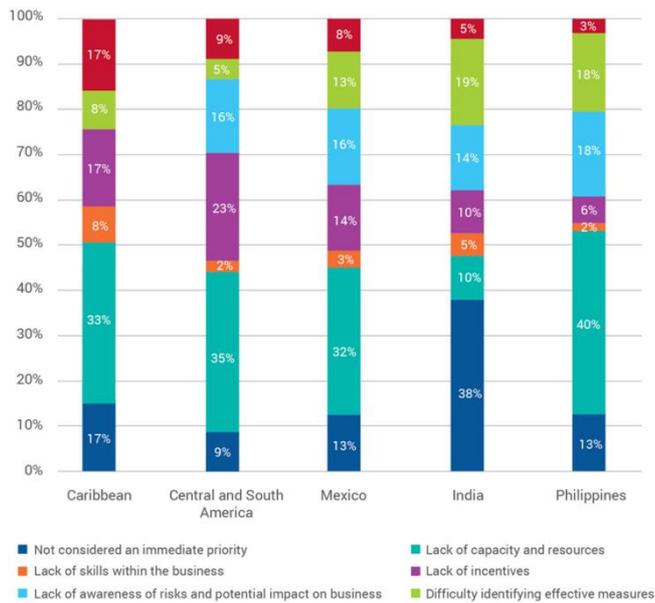- Launch of Financial Sector and DRR Guidance

Stay in touch!

Amplify your reach sharing your events and publications with us. We want to hear from you.

Send your updates to the email address below and reach 800+ people in the ARISE community! arise@cc.preventionweb.net

ARISE members can contact all other members by sending an email to arisemembers@cc.preventionweb.net

Figure 2. What are some of the main obstacles that are preventing your business in investing in the measures to protect the business from disasters?

Figure 1: "Innovation curve" from destructive to regenerative approaches

Global SME two-pager

"*SMEs have a key role to maintain sustainable food systems, add value and create jobs. However, they are being confronted with a whole new set of risks including those of climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic. We must ensure that these risks are incorporated in both global and local policy making while at the same time continue to support competitiveness. ITC welcomes this guidance report published by UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) which recognises that all stakeholders across government, private sector and NGOs must work together in alliances to enable transformative and resilient change for good.*"

Anders Aeroe, Director Enterprises and Institutions, International Trade Centre (ITC)

Click here to download the SME Guidance Report, the SME Resources Compendium and the 6 SMEs two-pagers (Global, Caribbean, Central and South America, Mexico, India and the Philippines)

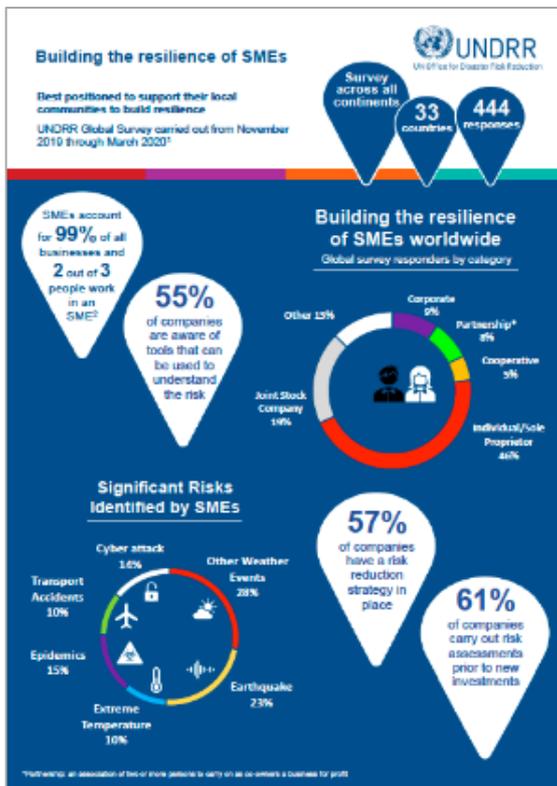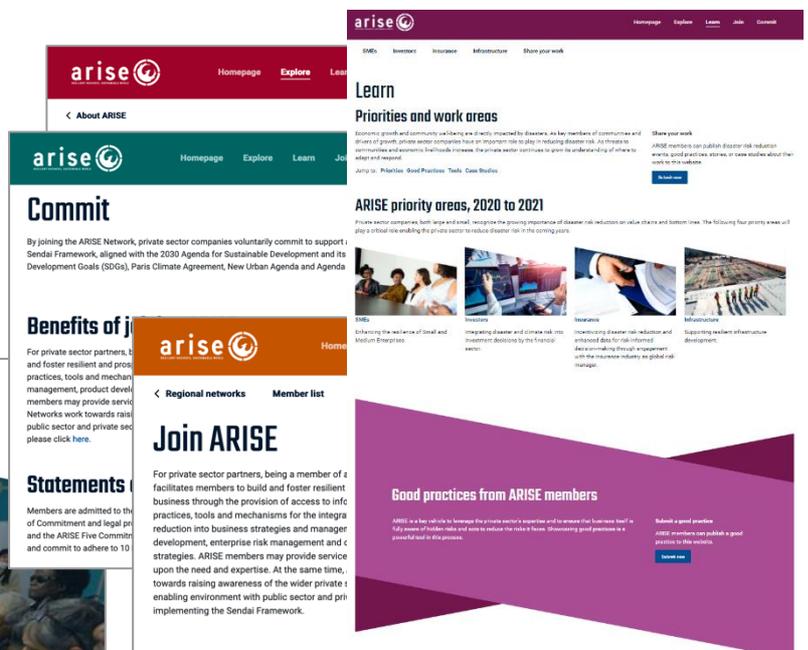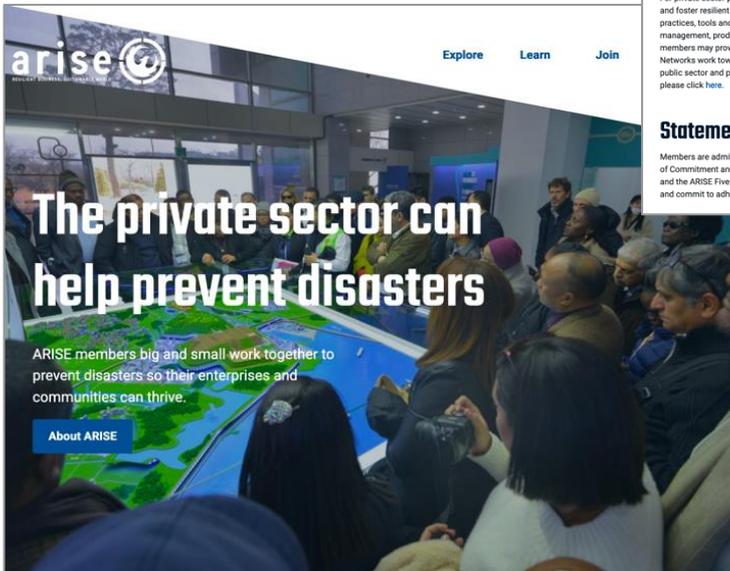**Figure 2: Summary Framework for building the resilience of SMEs through Disaster Risk Reduction**

News round-up:

The new ARISE website is now LIVE!
www.ariseglobalnetwork.org

This new, fresh interface has been redesigned with specific objectives in mind: to globally enhance the visibility of ARISE, promote the networks' work, and enable the collaboration of members and networks.

Prospective members are now able to fill out the ARISE registration form online and submit the required documentation with their online application. This new platform is user-friendly and provides the private sector access to relevant information, news and tools. Starting in February, ARISE members can submit their own best practices and case studies under the "Learn" section. Click here to explore the new website!

ARISE Board Workplan

Following the first Board meeting on 19 October 2020, the 2020-2023 Board Workplan has been finalized and endorsed by all Board members. Key areas of focus will be the implementation of the Four ARISE priorities (Small and Medium Enterprises, Investment and Investors, Insurance and Resilient Infrastructure), further strengthening the network communication and collaboration and enhancing the visibility of ARISE in the policy and business community. The Regional Platforms, UNFCCC COP26 and Financing for Development discussions in 2021 and Global Platform 2022 will be critical milestones for ARISE engagement and action. Click here to see biographies of ARISE Board members.
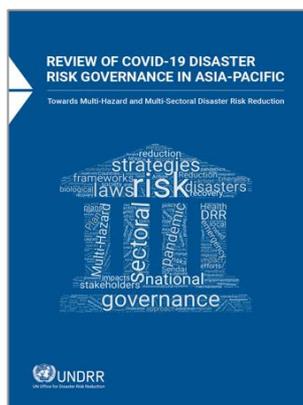
Build Back Better: building resilient health infrastructure and supply chains. What have we learned from COVID-19?

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed "deep-rooted vulnerabilities" in public health infrastructure and supply chains. That was the conclusion of the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction, Mami Mizutori at the online event hosted by the Delhi-based Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) on 17 December 2020.

Over 400 people registered for the CDRI-hosted webinar moderated by Kamal Kishore, Member, of India's National Disaster Management Authority, India. Hans-Peter Teufers, Director of International Programmes at the UPS Foundation, and ARISE Vice-chair, spoke of the logistical challenges of delivering PPE in the early stages of the pandemic. Mr. Teufers also stressed the importance of running simulations to make sure we have a good perspective on what can happen in any given situation for the delivery of COVID-19 vaccines. Click here to watch the webinar.
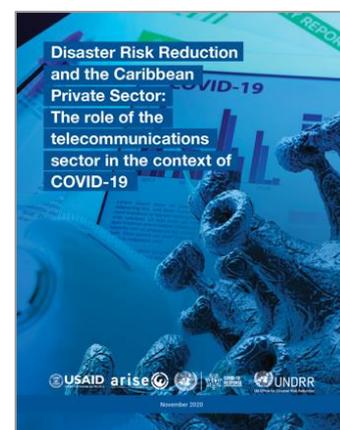
Review of COVID-19 Disaster Risk Governance in Asia-Pacific:
Towards Multi-Hazard and Multi-Sectoral Disaster Risk Reduction

The COVID-19 pandemic is having an unprecedented impact on countries in the Asia-Pacific region. Not only have the health consequences led to over 170,000 deaths in the region, but the socio-economic costs have exceeded those of the Asian financial crisis in 1997. This paper examines the disaster risk governance structures in Asia-Pacific and provides recommendations on how they can be strengthened. The guiding documents of 28 countries were reviewed against a list of questions around how they integrate biological hazards and the health sector into their priorities and plans. This initial review was further substantiated through key informant interviews with the national disaster (risk) management offices of 17 countries. Additional information, especially on working practices on coordination between national disaster (risk) management organizations and health authorities, was derived from discussions with relevant disaster risk reduction entities in-country. Click here to download the report.

Disaster Risk Reduction and the Caribbean Private Sector:
The Role of the Telecommunications Sector in the Context of COVID-19

The telecommunications sector importance has expanded in the context of COVID-19 in terms of the dealing with both the public health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic disaster. From a public health perspective, the telecommunications sector has become indispensable in aiding the public health agenda of building public awareness through communications as well as providing the means for tasks like tracking and tracing coronavirus cases. The telecommunications sector has also proven to be critical for facilitating increased business connectivity, digital trade and e-commerce and for scaling up of working-from-home arrangements and the expanded provision of online services in the health, financial, education and entertainment sectors. From this perspective, it can be argued that the telecommunications sector has emerged as a key stakeholder from a disaster risk reduction framework given its contribution to disaster preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery and reconstruction. Click here to download the report.

Lecture on Disaster Risk Reduction for Business Resilience at the American University in Dubai

AUD organized a special lecture led by Mami Mizutori, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Disaster Risk Reduction. The lecture was called *Disaster Risk Reduction for Business Resilience: Why bother?* This was an exciting event for ARISE as it continues to build its new UAE network.

Today, the American University in Dubai is a fully independent, vibrant institution that serves as a point of reference for higher education within the Gulf Region and the greater Middle East. It currently educates more than 2,000 students of more than100 nationalities and remains the first institution outside of the U.S. and Latin America to receive accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Youth under age 30 currently make up more than half the world's population. They are the ones who will benefit the most from reducing the risk and impact of disasters, curtailing climate chaos, and achieving the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Engaging Youth on the Frontline of Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience aims to ensure worldwide access to expertise, communities of practice, and networks of DRR practitioners. The guide offers five interrelated sections with specific advice on how to support and engage children and youth. The main target audience of the lecture was Master students from the Business school of AUD who are likely to be business executives and leaders of the future. Click here to watch the lecture.

World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD), November 5. #TsunamiDay

The Secretary-General expressed it very well in his [message](#) for [World Tsunami Awareness Day (WTAD)](#) on November 5: "Currently we are struggling with what some describe as a tsunami of death and disease due to COVID-19. This metaphor comes easily because living memory remains strong of the worst sudden onset disaster this century, the Indian Ocean tsunami of 2004 that took more than 227,000 lives."

It is the uniquely deadly and destructive nature of tsunamis which led the UN General Assembly to add WTAD to the [international calendar](#) five years ago. WTAD has served as a rallying point not just for raising awareness of tsunami risk but disaster risk in general, and this year, the importance of disaster risk governance in particular.

#TsunamiDay was another opportunity to drive home the message that we need to increase the number of national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020 in line with Target (e) of the Sendai Framework. It was a busy day which resulted in a huge response across our social media channels, reaching more than 1 million people, thanks to a campaign supported by the UN and countries on the front line of tsunami risk.
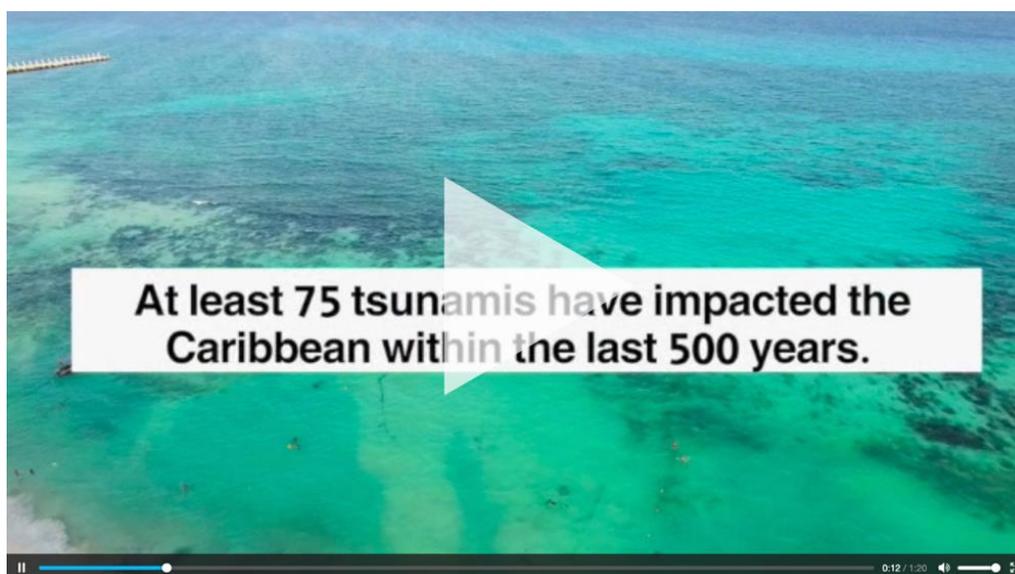
The Chair of the UNDRR Support Group, Amb Emilio Izquierdo of Ecuador, moderated our online panel discussion Ready for the Next Wave! He reminded the online audience that tsunamis do not happen in a vacuum. The cascading impacts from a tsunami can increase poverty and vulnerability to other events on disaster-prone coastlines.

UNDRR greatly values our partnership with IOC-UNESCO and it was encouraging to hear its Executive Secretary, Vladimir Ryabinin, highlight the value of Tsunami Ready initiatives in the Caribbean. UNDP's Ronald Jackson emphasized the importance of institutionalizing best practice when it comes to preparedness and early warning. We also heard sharp insights and good practices into managing tsunami risk from an impressive line-up of Permanent Representatives from countries on the front-line of disaster risk: Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, the Maldives and Portugal.

By the year 2030, an estimated 50 per cent of the world's population will live in coastal areas exposed to flooding, storms and tsunamis. Having plans and policies in place to reduce tsunami impacts
will help to build more resilience and protect populations at risk.

Do you have a national or a local plan in place to anticipate a tsunami?

[Click here](#) to lean more and watch video. #TsunamiDay #Plan2Survive

At least 75 tsunamis have impacted the Caribbean within the last 500 years.

UNDRR Stakeholder Mechanism Annual Meeting of the Advisory Group

The Annual Meeting of the UNDRR Stakeholder Engagement Mechanism (UNDRR SEM) Advisory Group took place virtually on 26 January 2021. The meeting focused on taking stock of SEM progress in 2020 and brainstorming on impactful activities to best implement the SEM Action Plan in 2021. ARISE was represented in the meeting by ARISE Global Board Member Fernando Perez de Britto, who also serves as SEM focal point since 2019, and Dr. Bhagat Khanna, who acts as SEM Coordinator for the Regional Platforms for DRR. Mami Mizutori, Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and Ricardo Mena, Director of UNDRR reiterated that all-of-society engagement and partnership is required to turn the political recognition of DRR into action, with SEM being a key mechanism to engage. Mami Mizutori also highlighted critical policy avenues for stakeholder engagement related to DRR including the five Regional Platforms in 2021, the Global Platform in 2022 and the mid-term review of the Sendai Framework in 2023.

In depth: ARISE America and the Caribbean

UNDRR together with **ARISE St. Lucia** (St. Lucia Chamber of Commerce), **CARICHAM and ARISE Grenada** (Grenada Chamber of Commerce) organized two trainings on the use of UNDRR tools for private sector resilience, especially for SMEs. The objective of the training module was to inform the private sector on concepts of risk reduction and resilience and the components and nature of risk; propose the value of adopting resilient practices for businesses; encourage the exchange of experience, good resilience practices and challenges unique to the MSME sector; and, to introduce participants to UNDRR's set of toolkits for risk reduction and prevention to the COVID-19 pandemic and multi-hazards events. ARISE Grenada Network was officially launched during the second training.

In the framework of a public private partnership, **ARISE Chile,** with UNDRR's support, organized a virtual session on 18 November 2020 with members of the national platform for DRR to launch the Business Resilience Guideline and exchange of good practices between ARISE networks. During the session, ARISE Chile presented the national guideline to develop and implement DRR Plans for private sector companies, and exchanged experiences with the ARISE Colombian network, which had also promoted the same process in coordination with national authorities.

ARISE El Salvador organized the private sector symposium for sustainable development on 26 – 29 October 2020. During the event, which included the private sector, government authorities and representatives from the international cooperation including the EU and UN agencies highlighted the role of the private sector in achieving sustainable development. The symposium included special sessions on DRR and the ARISE initiative.

ARISE Trinidad and Tobago organized the Annual Conference on Business Resilience took place on 29 – 23 October 2020 with a session dedicated to prevention of multi-hazard events.